

The Strange People of the Far East

There is nothing more interesting than a study and understanding of people. Study of the people of the Orient is fascinating, and despite all talk of the mystery which has enshrouded them all these centuries, they may be understood by even the casual observer.

In Formosa we find the Japanese Government so influencing the savages that they are taking their places among the producers of primary products, and the tea and camphor of Formosa, which go to all the world, as well as the rice for the people of the island, are largely produced by those aborigines who, but a few years ago,

found their greatest joy in collecting human heads. The strongholds of these head-hunters have been made safe for tourists, just as the Hermit Kingdom of Korea has been opened for travel and sport, and the Koreans gradually developed into a peaceful, useful people.

The change in the people of the East is dramatic and inspiring. If you are interested in the great drama of the world's development, go to the Far East now. Arrange your trip through any steamship agency or your favorite tourist bureau.

A Formosan Savage

It is as impossible to duplicate the delicious flavor of FORMOSA OOLONG TEA

as it is to duplicate the lustrous beauty of true pearls in shoddy imitations. Formosa Oolong tea is flavored by nature only. It is pure; never colored.

Your Grocer Has It — if he is a Good Grocer

DUTCH PLAN MORE INDIAN RAILROADS

Extensive Programme of Improvement for Islands Announced by Government.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 14.—The Netherlands East Indies Government has fixed a definite programme for the extension and improvement of the State railroad, tramways and roads in the Dutch East Indies for the next ten years, according to a report received from United States Consul J. F. Jewell at Batavia, Java, and given out to-day by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce as a tip to American manufacturers and contractors interested in such construction.

According to the Netherlands East Indies Government's programme, the plans for Java include double lines for those portions of the routes where the traffic is most crowded; improvement, extension, or rebuilding of important railway yards; new railroads in North Cheribon, in the Preanger residence south of Bandung; in the south and east of the Preanger; in the residence of Batavia, Santam, Kedu, Kediri, Pasuruan and Besuki; altogether up to about 1,000 kilometers (kilometer equals .62 mile) of new railroads.

The plans for Sumatra include completion of the south Sumatra line, namely, the whole of the route from Oosthaven (Telok Betong) to Palembang; from Muara Enim to Lahat and from there to the Bengkulu highlands, and in the Djambi direction up to Klingi territory; extension of the line from Lahat to Tobing Tinggi, Surulangun, Muara Tebo, Teluk and on up to Muara Kalaban and Pakanbaru; line also to connect Benkulen with the coast; in Dischburg a line from Surulangun through the oil fields to Muarababar, which will be the junction of six branch lines; a railway from Siboga to Padang Sidempuan, thence extending to Penajungan and connecting the line with Pakanbaru; a line from Padang to Pasir Pengaraian by way of Lubuk-laping, and a line also from Padang into the Ophir district; altogether upward of 2,700 kilometers of new railroads.

The plans for Celebes are as follows: A line from Takalar to Macassar and Maros, this to be extended to Pare-Pare or Sungkang; a further extension from Pare-Pare along the Gulf of Mandar as far as Tubo; a line connecting Palopo and Malili by way of Lowa, with extensions to the Gulfs of Tolo and Tomini, and branch lines to southern Boni and Takalale; in northern Celebes a network of railways in the Minahassa district; altogether upward of 1,100 kilometers.

The plans for Borneo are as follows: A line from Pontianak to Sagona, with a branch line to Bankajang; a line from Pontianak to Sarawak by way of Meraue, with branch lines from Nabaung to Samar and Neris; from Pontianak to Pematangtudja by way of Sungkaiakap; from Bandjermasin to Tandjung by way of Martapura, and from Martapura to Pagatan by way of Tielchari; altogether upward of 1,300 kilometers.

In Bali, Lombok, Banca and Billiton railroads are projected up to about 500 kilometers altogether. Plans for the whole of these lines are now in course of preparation.

Besides its railways and tramways Java has a good number of fairly well kept roads. The plans for these include the construction of a network of two high roads running in a zigzag across the island, with five side connections. These fit in with the district road plans.

The other possessions are badly off in the matter of interdistrict communication. In the meantime, however, a general programme for the construction of roads has been made for Sumatra, including plans for something like fifty-four roads, aggregating a total length of 4,000 kilometers. The intention is to connect those already existing and to open up new roads to outlying districts as far as necessary.

For Borneo, Celebes, Bali and other islands plans for roads have also been devised and partly executed. Preparatory measures, too, are being taken toward improving the navigation of such rivers as serve as ways of communication.

Much attention and energy is being devoted to the improvement of the means of communication in the other possessions. This will do away with one of the chief obstructions to the development on modern lines of the natural wealth of these places.

REDS MAKE TRADE HALT IN SIBERIA

Graft Driving All but the Japanese Out of Business in Vladivostok.

VLADIVOSTOK, Oct. 15.—Recent developments here have dashed the decidedly promising outlook for the resumption of trade with Vladivostok and Eastern Siberia. Several months ago there seemed to be a general tendency among the various more or less independent communities of Eastern Siberia, which organized themselves after the fall of the Kolchak Government, to develop along more conservative lines and to go together in a close federation. In most instances the ownership of private property was restored, and people seemed anxious to settle down to business and to export commodities. However, Vladivostok has always been the centre of a large transient, rough population and in winter time particularly attracted the unemployed from the mines, ex-convicts and the like.

At the present time it would appear that the local government, according to the Far East commercial adviser, is largely Bolshevik in the worst sense and wholly corrupt. In fact, it is spoken of locally as the "stevedore government." Utter lawlessness prevails and murder and robbery are of common occurrence. Requisition and extortion by the government make an almost insupportable situation for the foreign population. Municipal functions have ceased entirely and general graft prevails. Sanitary activities have been suspended. The cities are not lighted and no public work is proceeding.

The Japanese alone are exempted from high handed interference, but they are apparently maintaining an attitude of non-interference in the local situation and merely taking care of their own interests. The commercial institutions are withdrawing one after another. How long this situation will continue it is almost impossible to say, but the outlook is not encouraging. Those who are inclined to be of an optimistic nature hope that eventually the pressure from the interior communities of Eastern Siberia—which urgently need to resume trade relations with the outside world—may force a thorough cleaning up of Vladivostok and the establishment of orderly conditions under which the resumption of commerce will be possible.

JAPANESE QUICK TO AID CHRISTIANS

Give Use of Great Theatre to Sunday School Convention When Hall Burns.

When fire destroyed the imposing convention hall specially erected for the World's Sunday School Convention delegates from all over the world suddenly found themselves at a convention with no meeting place. Immediately they learned of the disaster such men as Viscounts Kaneko and Shibusawa and Count Uchida, Minister of Foreign Affairs, called upon Secretary Frank L. Brown to offer sympathy and help. During the night they arranged with the management of the Imperial Theatre to place the great building at the disposal of the convention.

Commenting upon this promptness of a non-Christian people assisting a Christian people the editor of the *Japan Times and Mail* said:

"The prompt action is typical of Japan. To appreciate how much of a favor this really is one will have to remember that it means thousands of money to the theatre and great inconvenience in the carrying out of the theatrical programme of the largest amusement houses in Japan, and indeed one of the largest in the Far East."

"Another consideration is the fact that Japan is not a Christian nation. The vast majority of the people here are of non-Christian persuasion. Yet that fact did not stand in the way of holding out a helping hand to the Sunday school convention officials. Would the same courtesy be held out to the people of a non-Christian denomination by any other nation of the world? Would there have been the same prompt action and the same response?"

"Yet the action of Tuesday was typical of the Japanese. They are the delegates to the World Sunday School Convention their guests and all the courtesies and kindness that can be given to guests are readily extended to the foreigners now visiting this country."

"By the way, we cannot help remarking that the action of Viscount Shibusawa and other representative Japanese is a hard blow to the agitators and political scoundrels who are ever ready to attribute everything base and selfish to the people of this empire. It is also a hard blow to the yellow press of Japan, which has done everything possible to stir up feeling against the Americans in the recent agitation regarding the California question."

"Japan needs more men like the representatives who came to the rescue of the Sunday school convention, and the rest of the world needs more men like the officials of the Sunday school organization who are capable of appreciating the whole heartedness and generosity which prompted the Japanese to act. The fire was a fortunate thing in many ways. Fortunately that it happened when it did, since it must happen, fortunate that there was no loss of life to mar the proceedings of the convention and particularly fortunate in that it gave the Japanese a chance to show their real spirit, the spirit of Japan."

JAPANESE CEMENT PRODUCTION GROWS

Increasing Demand in Orient Being Met by Home Manufacturers.

The manufacture of Portland cement has become one of the most conspicuous industries in Japan and for future development it is one of the most promising. In 1915 the production amounted only to a little over four million barrels, but this year, the production will exceed seven and a half million.

The cement manufacturers of Japan are in an especially fortunate position. In addition to the tremendously increased demand within the empire itself, the rebuilding of the whole Orient promises much for the consumption of the product of these plants. Japan's nearness to the great consuming centres along the China coast and to the ever growing markets of the Philippine Islands, the Netherlands, India and to India give her manufacturers a tremendous advantage over more distant competitors. Even in Java, Japanese cement has succeeded in dominating the market, to the detriment of Australian manufacturers.

The quality of Japanese cement has been maintained and it is a quality which makes the cement superior to any manufactured in the Orient, including British India. Exports are constantly growing. In 1916 the value of exported cement was \$1,333,588, but in 1919 the value had risen to \$2,222,301, 1920 becoming the banner year for the cement manufacturers, whose exports amounted to \$2,942,981 for the first six months. Unfavorable exchange and the general slump have caused a temporary inactivity and the price has declined to \$7.50 as of May last to \$4.75 to-day, but this dullness is inconsequential in the great measure of the industry. Comparatively quick recovery is certain, for in Japan great programmes of road construction have been initiated, fifteen miles of subway in Tokyo will consume vast quantities, and road, building and harbor improvements throughout the Pacific Islands and on the Asiatic continent will soon create a tremendous market, probably sufficient to tax the capacity of the Nippon factories.

If it is true that American produces 30,000,000 barrels a year for 100,000,000 inhabitants, Japan can reasonably expect to increase her production ten times before the maximum development of her home market is attained, and the great markets to the south of her ought to make a still greater production necessary, as well as balancing the demand throughout all four seasons, for these close southern markets know no winter, so that climatic changes will not create dull periods in the export demand.

CENTRAL JAPAN PROSPEROUS.

Abundance of Fertilizers, Insuring Good Crops.

The people of central Japan, where some of the principal agricultural districts are located, appear prosperous and contented and crop prospects are favorable, due to the fact that the farmers had money with which to buy fertilizers and have given their crops excellent care.

Rice, millet and vegetable crops are in splendid condition, while the silk crop is the best in years. Fine, large cocoons are the result of well fertilized mulberry and favorable weather. It is believed that American silk manufacturers would do well to lay in a supply of the better grades.

JAPAN'S RICE CROP HEAVY.

TOKIO, Oct. 9.—The Department of Agriculture announces that this year's crop of rice will exceed that of last year by 12,500,000 bushels, and a great fall in prices is anticipated.

THE STORY OF SILK



Out of their silken prisons the dusty little moths pierce their way to lay the tiny eggs which become the seeds of the silk crop for the next year. The rearing of the worms is an exacting science, requiring so much personal attention that it is impossible to undertake the work on a large scale.

It is because sericulture is limited to the farm homes in Japan where the little spinners are cared for so skillfully, that they produce threads of such superior quality.



The tiny little silkworms are hatched out on the papers on which the eggs were laid, and then placed in small trays. From this time until these worms have spun their cocoons they are cared for most constantly, for the quality and quantity of their spinnings depend entirely upon the attention and feeding they receive.



The silkworms are most fastidious in the matter of food. They eat only fresh, finely cut mulberry leaves, hand picked, from these trees, which seem to grow best in Japan.

To feed these ever-hungry little silk makers, leaves from trees covering over a million and a quarter acres are required.



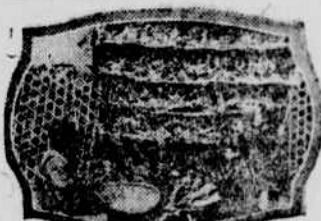
When the worms are very small they eat seven or eight times a day, and during this period the housewives are never very far from their charges.

Day and night special meals of the mulberry leaves, cut fine, must be prepared and sprinkled over the hungry little money makers. On stormy days the housewives get a little rest, for the worms enjoy eating only when the weather is agreeable to their artistic temperaments.



The hungry worms eat so much and grow so fast that in the first five weeks of life they increase in size many times. But in these five weeks they eat enough to last them the rest of their lives.

When satiated, they grow restless and the farmer is glad, because he knows his worms are ready to go to work.



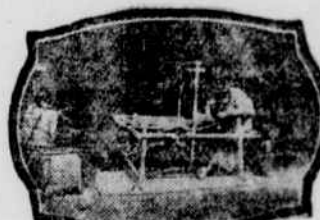
When the silkworm goes to work he undertakes his new job with great seriousness. Climbing up the rice-straw ladders, which the little Japanese girls have ready for the occasion, he picks out a comfortable spot and starts to spin. He works as industriously as he ate, for he never stops until he has "done his bit," which is from 500 to 1,200 yards of silken thread.



—and this is the "crop" the Japanese farmer raised—thousands and thousands of these little shells of silk. All the time the worms were spinning constant care had to be exercised to prevent two worms spinning their cocoons together. Double cocoons cannot be unwound.



After sorting the cocoons for quality the cocoons are boiled to kill the chrysalides. Then the tiny filaments are caught up and the cocoons literally unwound. As the Japanese housewife reels these tiny threads together they unite to form a single uniform rounded strand of lustrous raw silk.

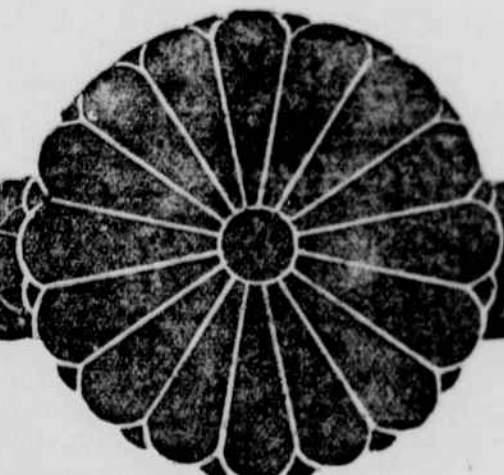


Of course there are many large establishments in Japan which produce rich silken fabrics for the markets of the whole world, but every farmer's wife weaves remarkably fine cloths whenever she finds an interval from household or field duties.



And when the fabrics are complete skilled workmen apply the wonderful colors and patterns which have made Japanese Silks eagerly sought for by buyers in all countries; but by far the largest quantity and the finest qualities find their way to America.

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